



Meeting Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 1, 2016

Cliff# 101535

Issue: Meeting with the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia

Background / Facts:

- The Minister of Advanced Education will be touring the University of British Columbia (UBC) on Friday, February 5, 2016. The tour will include a meeting with representatives from the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC.
- The AMS would like to:
 - discuss their current initiatives, Government priorities, and post-secondary-related climate action initiatives; and
 - provide the Minister with a tour of the AMS Student Nest.
- The AMS may raise issues related to post-secondary affordability (i.e., tuition and student fees) as well as the sexual violence prevention and response work currently underway by the Ministry and post-secondary institutions.

AMS Background:

- Members include approximately 50,000 students currently enrolled at the UBC Vancouver campus, along with 1,000 students at UBC affiliated colleges (Regent College, St. Mark's and the Vancouver School of Theology).
- The AMS oversees or provides:
 - numerous student services and events;
 - approximately 300 student clubs through its Student Administrative Commission (SAC);
 - universal programs, including health, dental and subsidized transit passes (U-Pass);
 - liaison services with constituency associations in the schools and faculties at UBC;
 - representation of student interests in relation to UBC and various levels of government;
 - the Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC); and
 - several businesses which provide full and part-time jobs for students, mostly in the food and beverage outlets.
- Recently, one of the main activities of the AMS has been the design and construction of a new student union building called the AMS Student Nest. This complex was completed in spring 2015.

The AMS Student Nest:

- In July 2007, the AMS formed the SUB Renewal Committee to consider options to upgrade the Student Union Building.
- An April 2008 student referendum allowed an incremental increase in student fees to raise the \$80 million for the project. In 2010, agreements were finalized and architects were appointed.
- UBC students indicated that sustainability was important in the design of the new building and the AMS Student Nest includes several sustainability features in its design and food services.
- The \$107 million cost of the building was funded by students in coordination with UBC.

- Goal is to obtain LEED Platinum Certification (the highest Green Building rating in North America).

Analysis:

Climate Action:

- The AMS has not identified specific issues related to climate action that they would like to discuss.
- Representatives from the AMS attended the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris aimed to achieve a binding and universal agreement on climate.
- According to the AMS website, the key issue the AMS wished to advance at the conference was the Broadway transit project – the extension of rapid transit services to UBC along the Broadway corridor.
- The AMS has endorsed GetOnBoard BC, a non-partisan coalition, including six student associations, working to create a cleaner, safer and smarter transportation system by making transit a priority for all levels of government.
- The UBC 20-Year Sustainability Strategy addresses how sustainability will be advanced across teaching, learning and research, operations and infrastructure, and the UBC community. UBC has also expressed support for expansion of transit services to the Point Grey campus.

Tuition and Fees:

- Government introduced the tuition limit policy in 2005 and since that time, tuition fee increases at public institutions have been limited to two percent per year.
- No tuition policy changes are contemplated at this time.
- The AMS have been protesting tuition fee increases and increases to mandatory student fees and may seek a position statement from the Minister on mandatory student fee increases specifically.
- Institutions may establish tuition rates for new programs, and may also introduce new mandatory fees for new services if there is a clear benefit to students.

Sexual Violence Prevention Guidelines:

- The Ministry and public post-secondary institutions are working together to develop “Guidelines and Principles for a Comprehensive Approach to Respond to Sexual Violence at B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions”.
- The purpose of this document is to assist institutions in their ongoing efforts to prevent sexual violence and to respond to incidents when they do occur.
- The AMS has worked with UBC to provide input and feedback to the draft guidelines document.
- Since 2002, the AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre (SASC) has supported survivors of sexual violence and their friends and families.
- The AMS sees this meeting as part of an ongoing dialogue with the Minister.

Contact: Claire Avison, Assistant Deputy Minister
(250) 217-9059



Information Note Advice to Minister

Date: February 3, 2016

Cliff #: 101552

Issue: Progress Report: Guidelines for a Comprehensive Approach to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Violence at BC Public Post-Secondary Institutions

Next Steps:

- Incorporate input from working group members and stakeholders.
- Reconvene working group to provide input and advice on approach to further engage the sector in this work.
- Finalize document with input from working group.
- Ministry staff will also continue to engage with EVA BC to ensure alignment with their guidelines document and coordinated timing for any public release.
- Target completion date of February 29¹.

Background / Facts:

- The Ministry and public post-secondary institutions are working together to develop “Guidelines and Principles for a Comprehensive Approach to Respond to Sexual Violence at B.C. Post-Secondary Institutions”.
- A working group has been established with Ministry staff and post-secondary representatives from University of the Fraser Valley, University of British Columbia, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, College of the Rockies, Langara College, and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. A senior solicitor from the Ministry of the Attorney General is also a member.
- The working group is engaged with the Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) in this work. With funding from Status of Women Canada, EVA BC is developing sexual assault guidelines for post-secondary institutions.
- A draft framework document has been developed that incorporates leading practice policies and resources from other jurisdictions as well as from EVA BC.
- Working group members have shared the draft document more broadly within their respective institutions – including with their student associations. The draft has also been shared with public post-secondary institutions that are not part of the working group for review/feedback.

Analysis:

- The draft guidelines and principles are intended to assist institutions in their ongoing efforts to prevent sexual violence and to respond to incidents when they do occur.
- The draft covers a range of topics including:
 - Scope and terminology
 - Understanding sexual violence in the campus community

¹ Some institutional and EVA BC representatives have indicated that more time is needed for consultation, including links to community agencies.



- Disclosure and formal reporting
- Education/awareness and prevention
- Development and review of institutional policy statements
- Institutional procedures
- A listing of helpful resources
- The Ministry has received substantial input from institutions on the draft and is currently reviewing and incorporating the feedback into a revised document for further discussion by the working group.

Attachment: N/A

Contact: *Claire Avison, Assistant Deputy Minister (250-217-9059)*